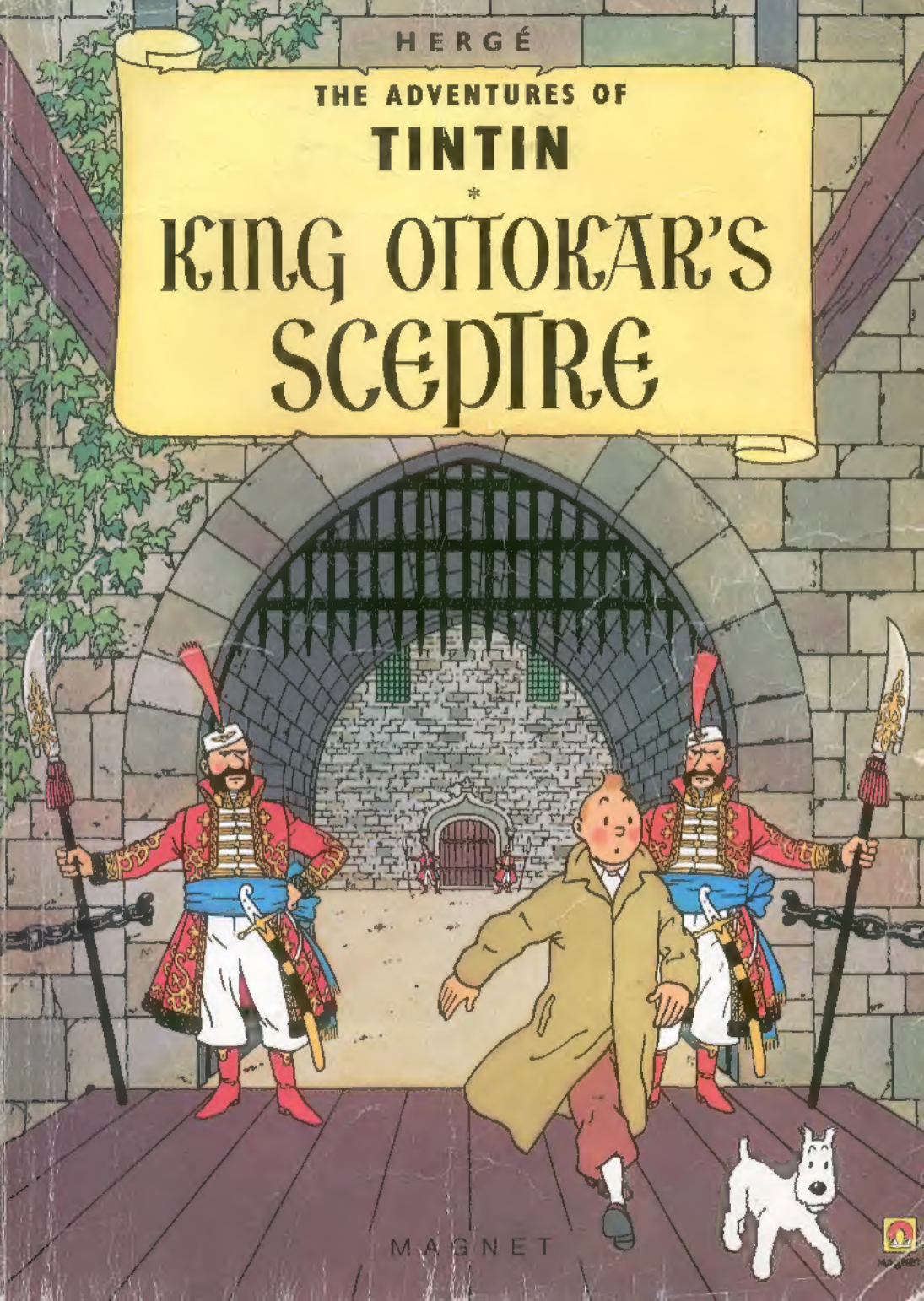


HERGÉ

THE ADVENTURES OF  
**TINTIN**

\*  
**KING OTTOKAR'S  
SCEPTRE**

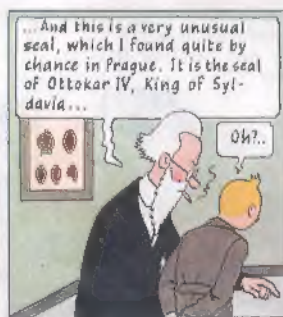
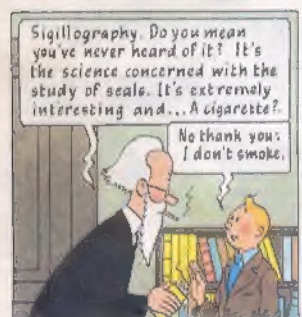
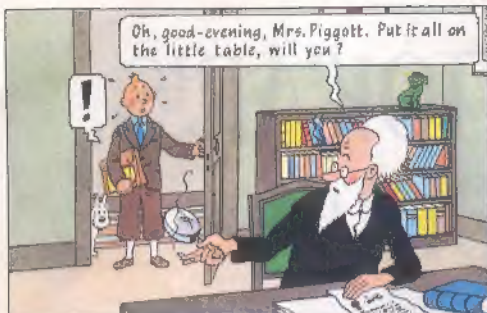


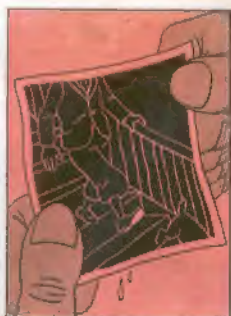
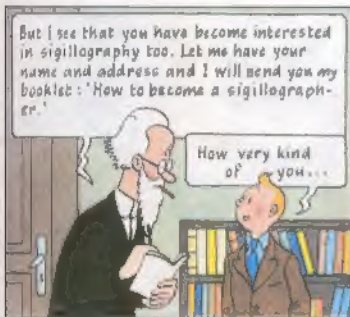
MAGNET

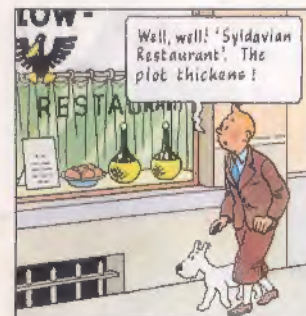


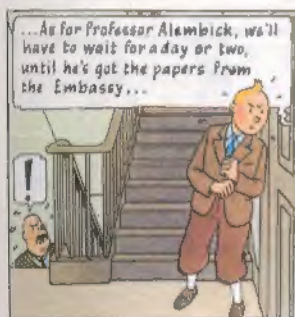
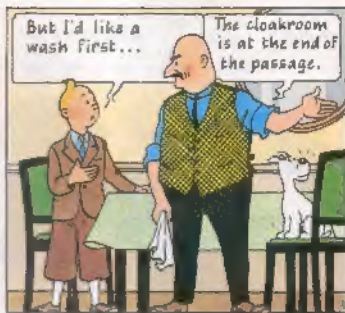
# KING OTTOKAR'S SCEPTRE

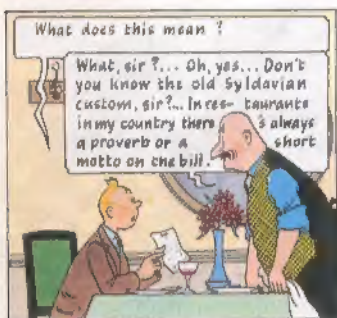
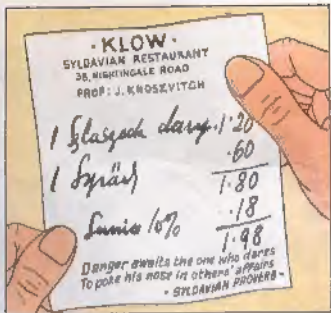
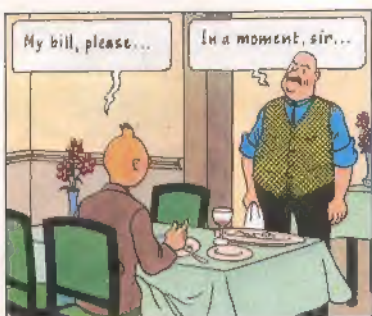


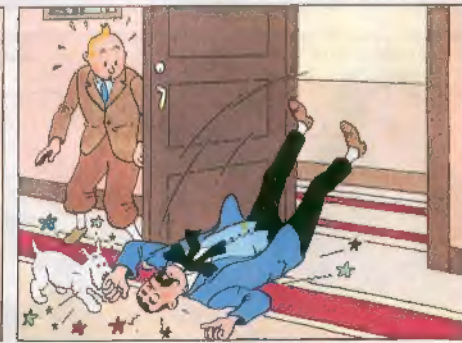
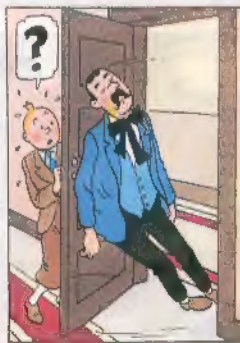
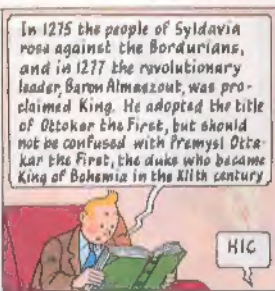


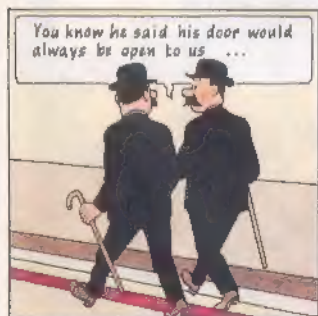
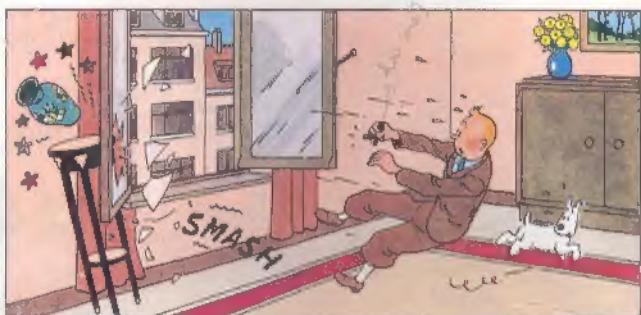
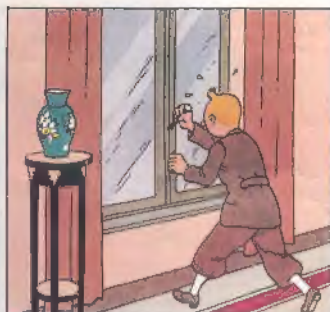


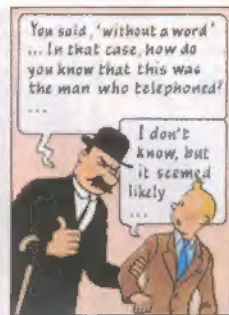


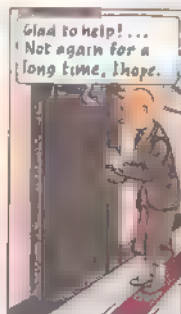
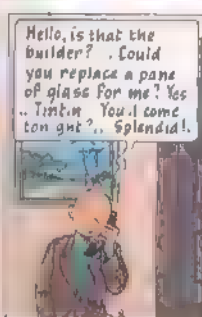
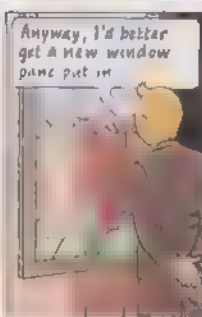
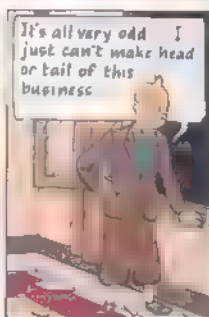
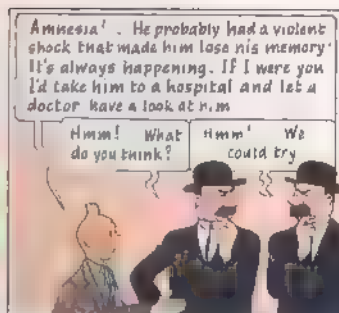
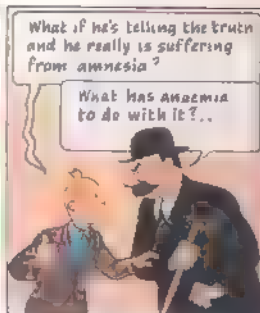










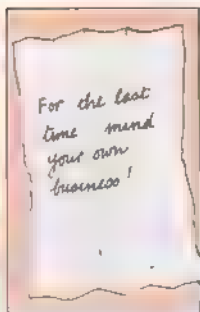




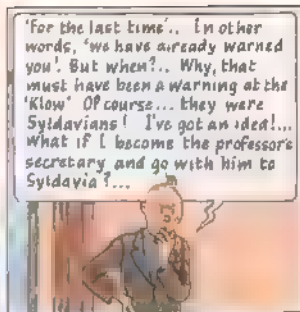
Nobody. The street is quite empty!



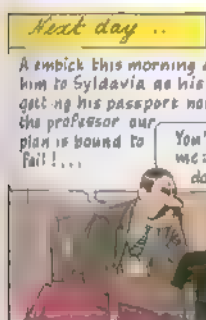
Ah! There's a note tied to this stone.



For the last time mind your own business!



'For the last time'.. In other words, 'we have already warned you'. But when?.. Why, that must have been a warning at the 'Klow'. Of course... they were Syldavians! I've got an idea!... What if I become the professor's secretary and go with him to Syldavia?...



Next day ..

Ambick this morning and agreed to go with him to Syldavia as his secretary!.. He's busy getting his passport now. If he goes with the professor our plan is bound to fail!...

You'd better leave this to me: I'll see that Tintin doesn't go!



Bad news!.. That Tintin went to see Professor



Some hours later

Mr Tintin?... He's gone out.



What's that, my boy?

It's a parcel for Mr Tintin.

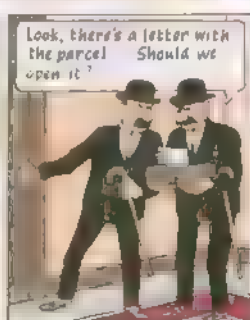


Give me that. We'll wait for Tintin up stairs, and give him this ourselves.

But



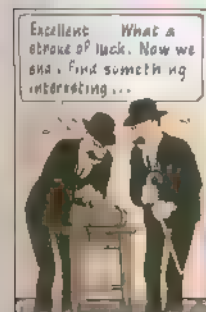
That's enough - we're the police!



Look, there's a letter with the parcel. Should we open it?



'If you want an explanation of yesterday's events, you will find it in this parcel. A friend.'



Excellent! What a stroke of luck. Now we shall find something interesting...



There are two men waiting in your room, they told me they were from the police

Oh? Good!

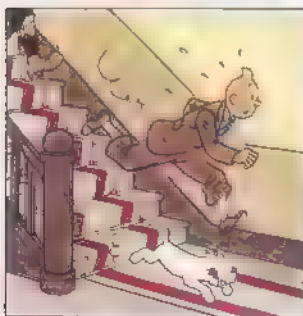


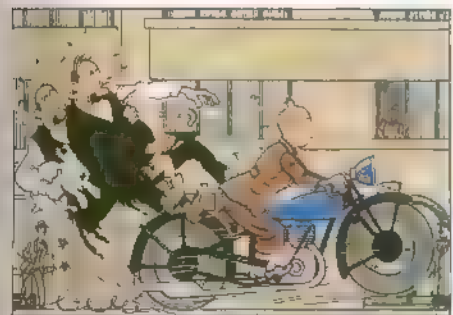
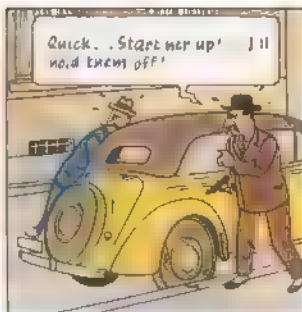
I wonder what they've got to tell me



BOOM

!?



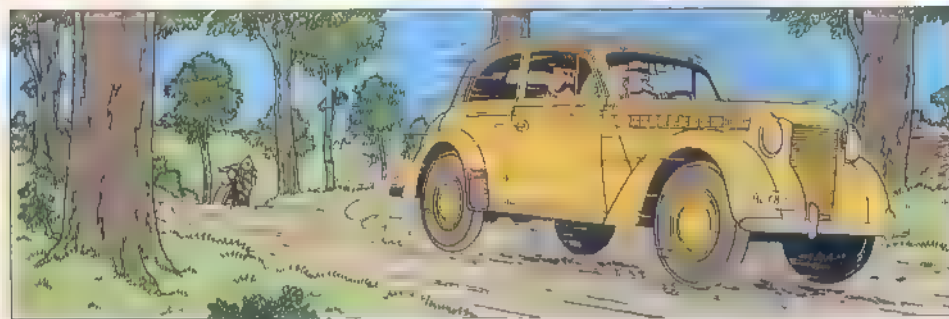




He's a one! He'll P.A.M. Let him gradually close up on us



We're catching up!

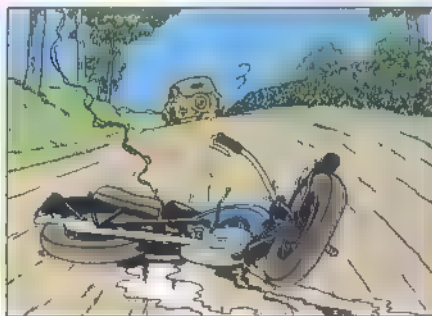
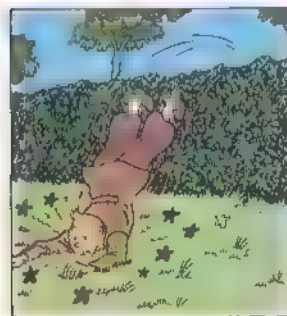
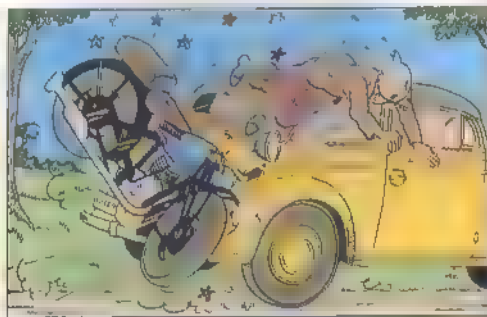
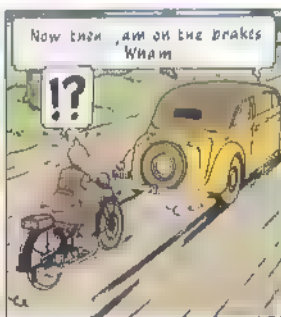


Now we've got em

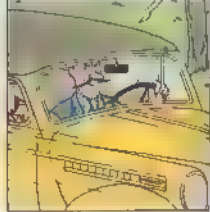


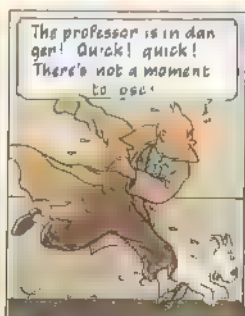
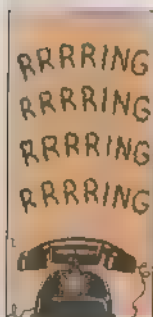
Now then, I am on the brakes Wham

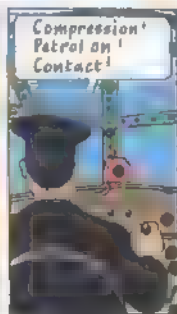
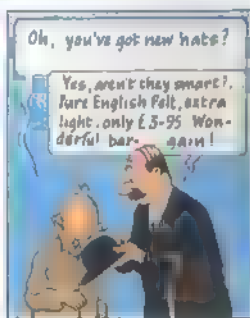
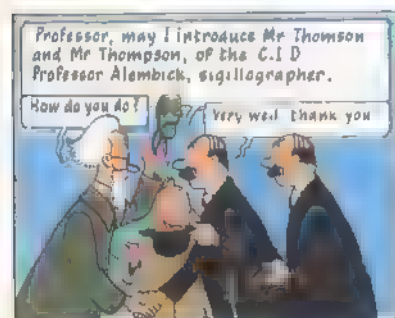
!?

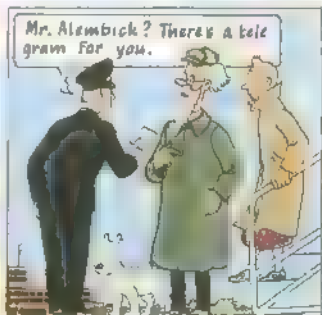
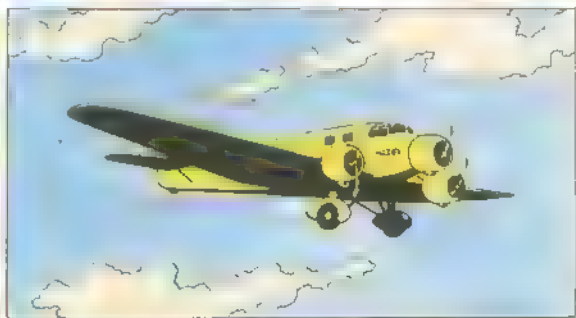
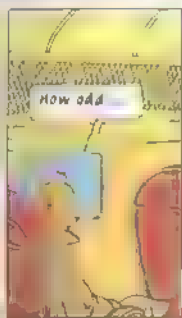
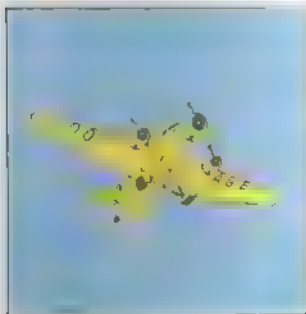


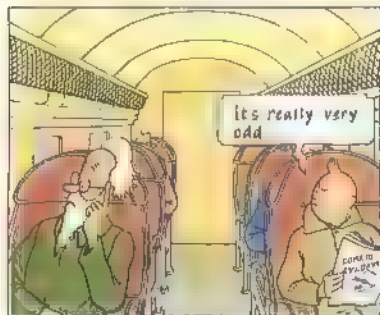
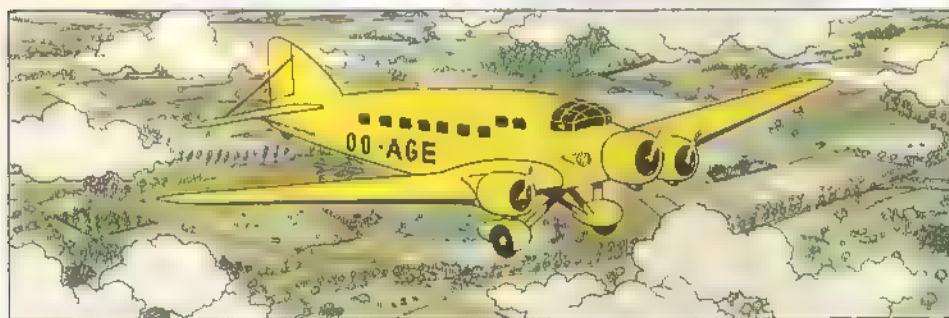
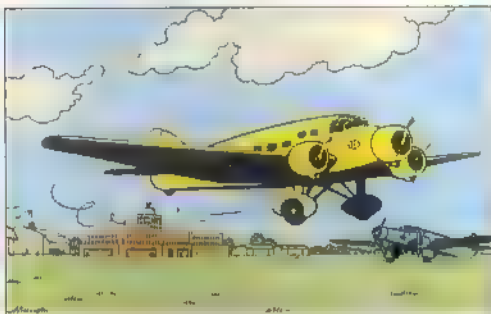
This time I think we've really shaken him off for good







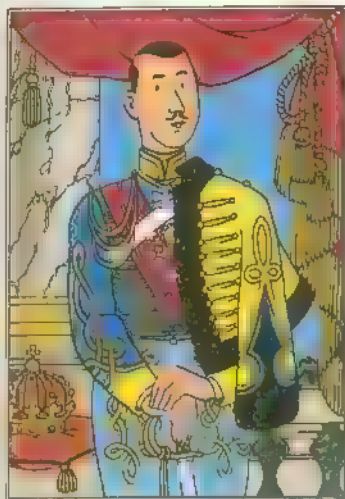






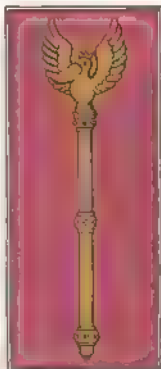


THE BATTLE OF ZILEHEROLM  
*After a XVIIth century miniature*



struck him a blow on the head with the sceptre, saying him low and at the same time crying in Svidavian: *eh bennek eh bennek* which can be said to mean: 'If you gather thistles expect prickles.' And, turning to his astonished court he said: *Hon ton du mo i pisse*. Then, gazing intently at his sceptre, he addressed it in the following words: O Sceptre, how hast saved my life. Be henceforward the true symbol of Svidavian kingship. Woe to the king who loses thee for, declare that such a man shall be unworthy of rule thereafter. And from that time every year on St Vladimir's Day each successor of Ottokar IV has made a great ceremonial tour of his capital. He bears in his hand the historic sceptre, which he would use the right to rule as he passes, the people sing the famous anthem:

Svidavians unite!  
Praise our King's might  
The Sceptre his right!



Right: The sceptre of Ottokar IV.  
Below: An illuminated page from 'The Memorable Deeds of Ottokar IV', a XIVth century manuscript.

Left: King Muskar XII, the present ruler of Svidavia in the uniform of Colonel of the Guards.

Muskar was a wise king who lived at peace with his neighbours and the country prospered. He died in 68, mourned by all his subjects.

His eldest son succeeded him, though with his chief of Muskar II, unlike his father, Muskar II lacked authority and was unable to keep order in his kingdom. A period of anarchy replaced one of peace and prosperity.

His neighbouring state of Bordu, the people observed, while a rich and strong king, grew weak, his only ally to rescue him was a Svidavian named Svidava. In 95, or almost a century, Svidava signed under the foreign yoke in 124, Hama. A man who repeated the exploits of Hama, coming down from the hills and routing the Borduvians in less than six months.

He was proclaimed King in 299, taking the name of Ottokar. He was fierce and much more powerful than Muskar.

He banished who had helped him in his campaign against the Borduvians forced him to grant them a charter based on the English Magna Carta signed by King John. Lack and! This marked the beginning of the feudal system in Svidavia.

On his return to Svidavia he found it in the confusion with the Ottokars. From six who were called and were Kings of Bohemia.

His mission was to maintain the peace between the nobles who finished their causes and maintained banish. It armed their passions strong enough to oppose the king's forces.

But he was founder of his kingdom of Svidavia was Ottokar IV who ascended the throne in 70.

From the time of his accession he made widespread reforms. He raised a powerful army and subdued the arrogant nobles controlling their wealth.

He devoted to the advancement of the arts, of letters, commerce and agriculture.

He was in the whole his son and gave it that security both at home and abroad so necessary for the renewal of prosperity.

And he was pronounced these famous words: *eh bennek eh bennek* which have become the motto of Svidavia.

The origin of this saying is as follows:

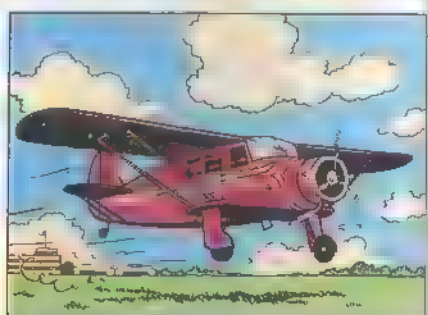
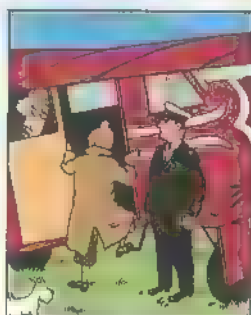
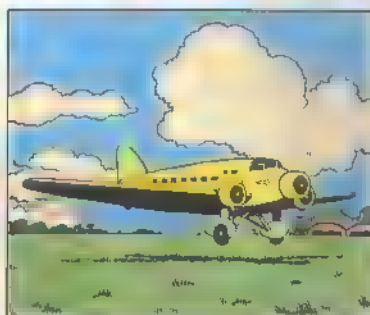
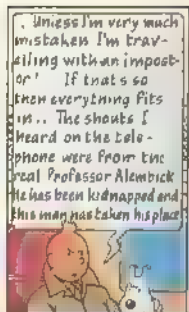
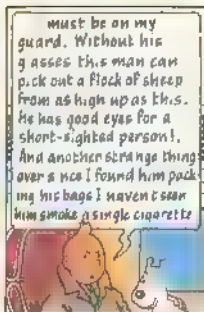
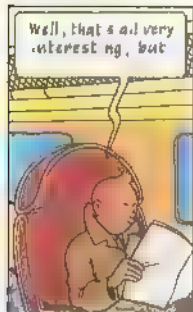
One day Baron Svarovich, son of one of the supposed nobles whose name had been offered to the crown came before the king. The king, stern and silent, when the presumptuous Baron's speech ended with a demand that he deliver up his sceptre, the king rose and cried: *eh bennek*. Come and get it.

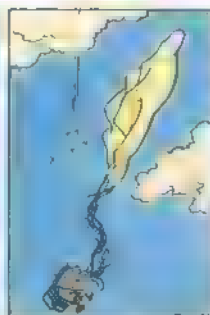
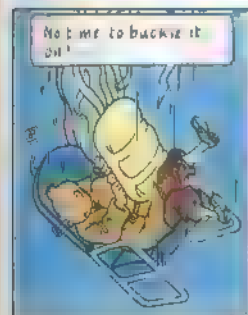
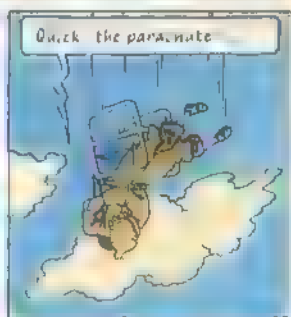
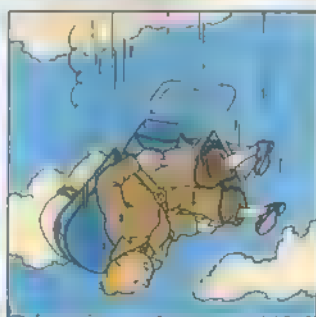
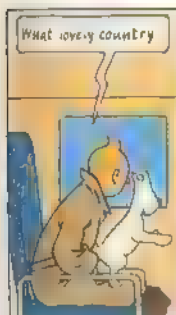
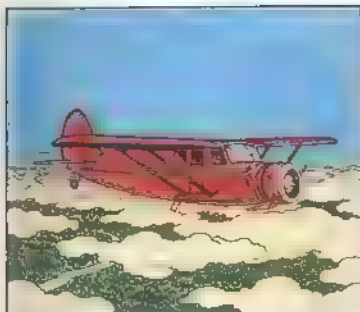
Mad with rage the young Baron drew his sword and before he retreated could intervene, all upon the King.

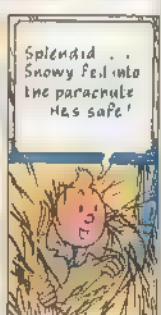
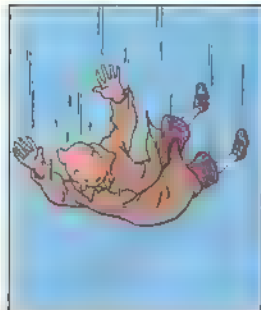
The King's sceptre swift and and as his aid ensary passed him carried forward by the impetus of his charge, Ottokar



**D**ur Ottokar  
Dus pollez o lapzada koniketz  
id o alpu kloppz:  
dan fromn ezt pho  
ma Ozeilla gyai:  
da on estear alpu  
Szommetz pakkeh  
o lapzada koniketz  
id o alpu kloppz:  
Szaszvisekiz erom  
szubel o. Dazobiek  
talalta opp o carrow.



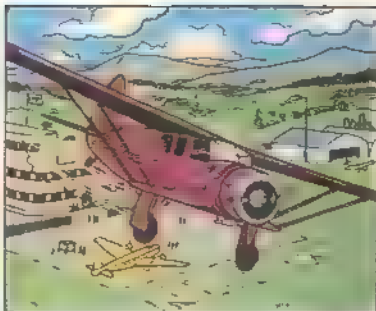






I'll explain... But first, are you sure we are not overheard?

Definitely not  
Go on



This must be serious.  
They've been in there  
nearly an hour.



You have just rendered a  
great service to my country. I  
thank you. I will telegraph at  
once to Klow and have Professor  
Aimback arrested. I'm sure I can  
rely on you for absolute secrecy..

Of course.. But I  
must be on my way.  
Can I hire a  
car?



There isn't a single car in  
the village. But tomorrow  
is market-day in Klow. You  
can go with a peasant who  
is leaving here today. But you  
won't arrive there until morning.

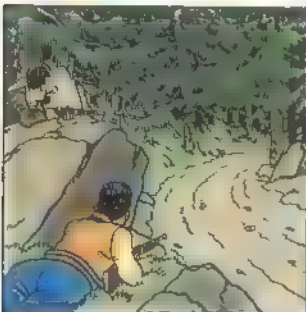
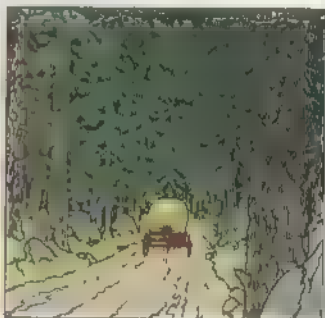
You bad, but I  
have no choice. I'll  
go with the peasant.



Hello? Yes, this is Klow 3324... Yes, Central  
Committee. Tjovik speaking. Oh it's  
you Wizek totz. What? Tintin? But  
that's impossible. The pilot has just told me  
What? Into some straw? Szplug! He must  
be prevented from reaching Klow at all costs!  
Do it how you like. Yes, ring up Sirov.



Hello?... Yes, this is Sirov.  
Hello Wizek totz. Yes. A  
young boy on the road to  
Klow. In a peasant's cart.  
Good, we'll be waiting in the  
forest. Yes, we'll cave at  
once. Goodbye!

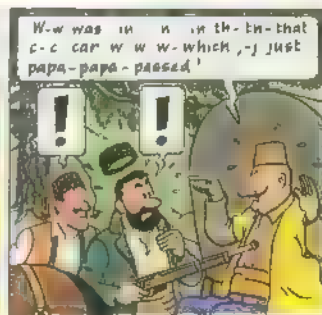
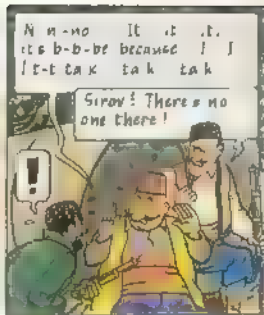


Look out!... Here  
they come!



Hands up!





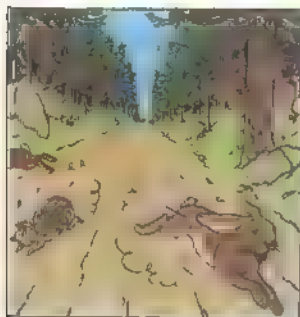


Yes, I am singing tonight at the Winter Garden in Klaw... Would you like to hear me now?

I'd love to



Ah, <sup>my beauty</sup> <sup>past compare</sup> these <sup>jewels</sup> <sup>bright I wear!</sup>

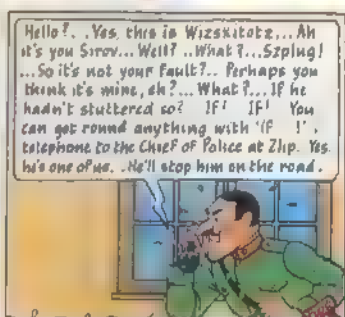


Was I ever <sup>ff</sup> <sup>d</sup> Marger-l-i-ka? <sup>f</sup>

It's lucky the windows are strong!



Hello?.. Yes, this is Wiskitobz... Ah it's you Sirov... Well?.. What?... Szplng!... So it's not your fault?... Perhaps you think it's mine, eh?... What?... If he hadn't stuttered so!.. If!.. If!.. You can get round anything with 'If'!.. telephone to the Chief of Police at Zip. Yes, he's one of us. He'll stop him on the road.



Well, how did you like that?

Very much indeed!



In that case, just to please you I'll sing something else!

!!!



Where is the boy who is travelling with you?

He got out earlier on. He'd forgotten something at the Coachman's Rest, so he went back.



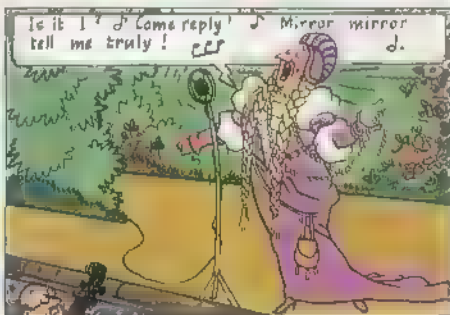
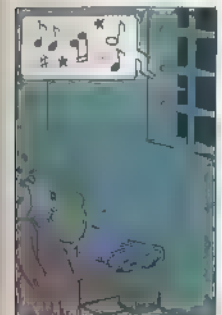
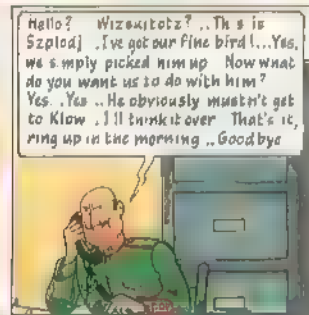
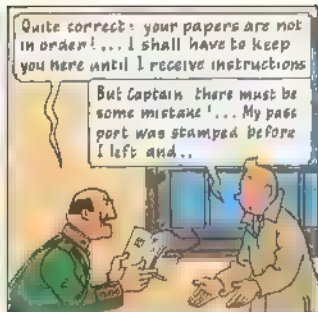
I would have given any excuse to escape!



### Meanwhile in Klaw

So, you wish to have access to the Treasure House to examine the national archives?... I won't conceal from you that this is a privilege rarely accorded to a foreigner, but since our ambassador has vouched for you, I think His Majesty will look favourably upon your request.

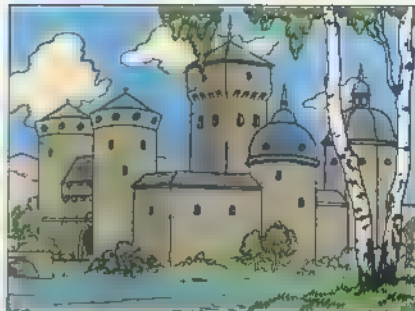




# Next day

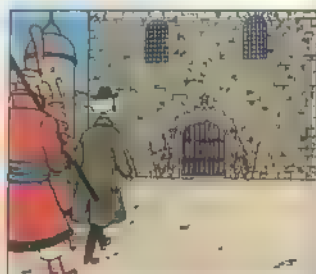
This document bearing the royal signature will admit you to the Treasure Chamber. Lieutenant Kromer will escort you there..

The regalia is housed in the keep of Kropow Castle. A special guard is mounted over it.



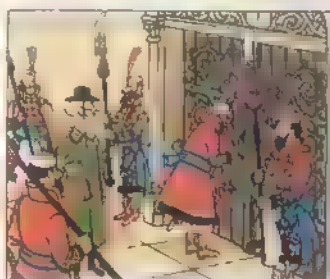
In the name of the King!

Professor, please with me.

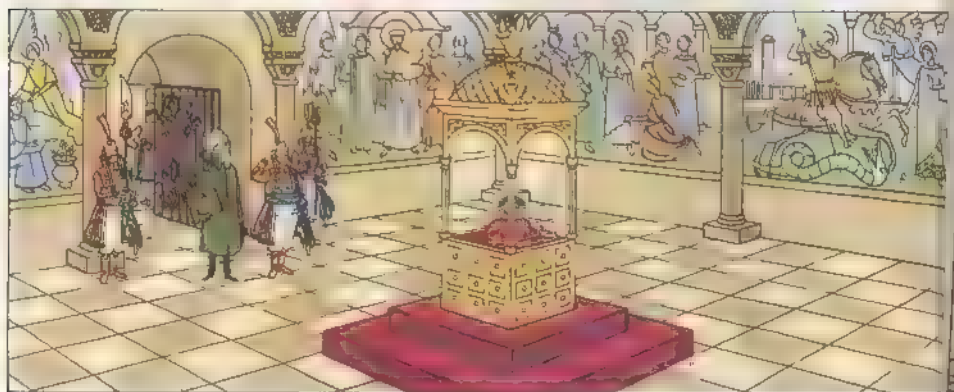


The regalia seems well guarded!

It's the man who is clever enough to steal it hasn't been born!



There is His Majesty's regalia, Professor!



And this is the Muniments Room, which adjoins the Treasure Chamber. You must forgive me, but two guards will remain with you for as long as you are here. The doors will also be locked from the outside. These are the orders. I hope you will not be offended.

Not in the least...



### Meanwhile

You are to take this young man to Klow. But be careful!... He is a dangerous ruffian who has been meddling in State secrets.. In fact, I've been given to understand, on high authority that it'd be a good idea if he never arrived in Klow.



These are your orders. You, as the driver, will stage a breakdown. You will get out to look at the engine, and the others will follow... The prisoner will then try to escape and you understand me?

Yes sir! But what if he doesn't try to get away?



Don't worry!... He will!...

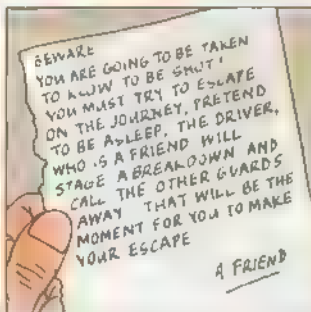


I wonder who can have sent me this?... A Friend? What Friend?



Beware  
YOU ARE GOING TO BE TAKEN  
TO KLOW TO BE SHOT!  
YOU MUST TRY TO ESCAPE  
ON THE JOURNEY, PRETEND  
TO BE ASLEEP, THE DRIVER,  
WHO IS A FRIEND WILL  
STAGE A BREAKDOWN AND  
CALL THE OTHER GUARDS  
AWAY THAT WILL BE THE  
MOMENT FOR YOU TO MAKE  
YOUR ESCAPE

A FRIEND



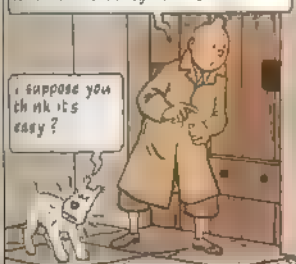
We'd better get rid of this, in case I'm searched.



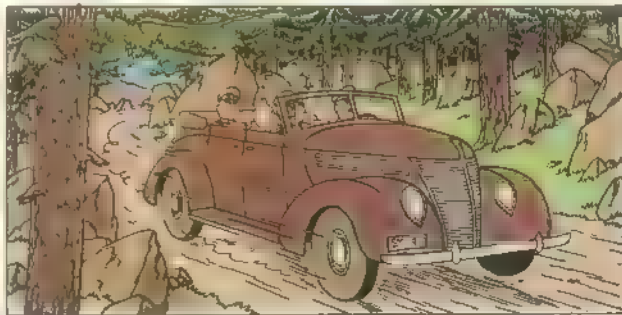
Here, Snowy, swallow this paper pellet for me..

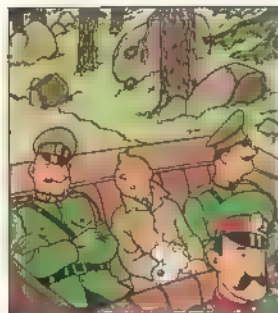


Hurry up now Snowy, I think someone is coming for us



I suppose you think it's easy?





Why have you  
stopped?...

It's the  
engine



Let's have a look... Oh, it's all right  
he's asleep...



Look out, he's moving!  
...He's getting out...  
Get ready...



A crap! I'm  
done for!

There he goes! Don't miss!



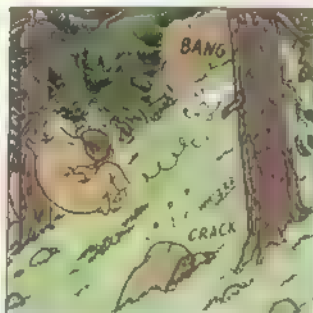
There's only one way!  
a nose dive!... Whoops!

BANG  
BANG  
BANG

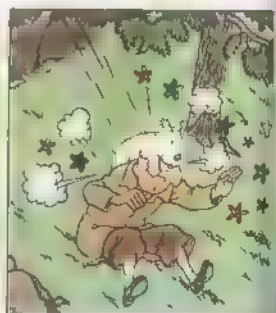
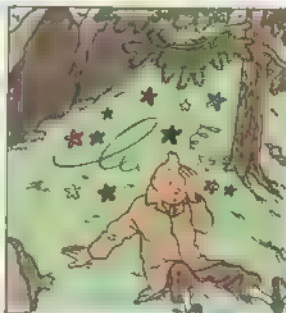
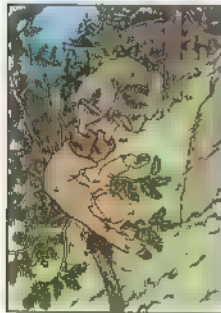
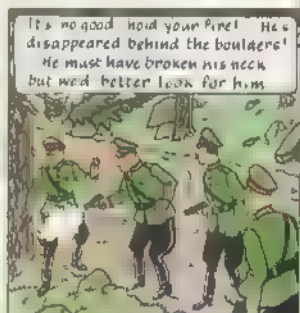


BANG

CRACK



It's no good, hold your fire! He's  
disappeared behind the boulders!  
He must have broken his neck,  
but we'd better look for him.



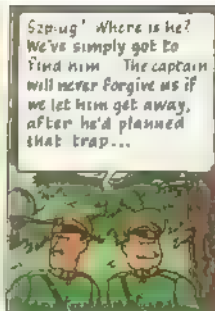


He fell down there  
.. Somewhere be-  
hind those rocks

They're  
coming!



Careful About  
here



Szpug! Where is he?  
We've simply got to  
find him! The captain  
will never forgive us if  
we let him get away,  
after he'd planned  
that trap...



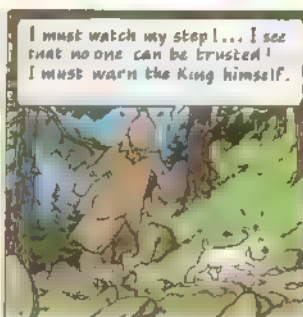
Come on, let's have another look.  
He can't be far away...



Whew!  
They've passed  
us



Now, off we go  
to Klow!...



I must watch my step!... I see  
that no one can be trusted!  
I must warn the King himself.



Meanwhile in Klow

I wonder if I might be permitted  
to photograph some of the  
documents?

As a rule that is not  
allowed, but His  
Majesty might  
consent...



Ah! Here's the main road  
again

Gee! I'm  
hungry



You have His Majesty's permission  
to photograph the documents but  
the pictures may only be taken  
by the official Court Photographer,  
Herr Czarlitz. Here is the order  
which authorises him to go with  
you into the castle



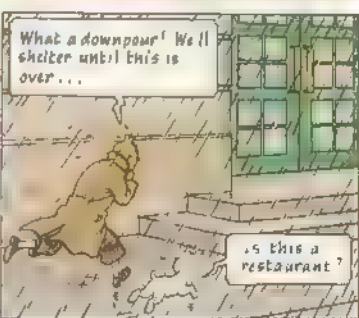
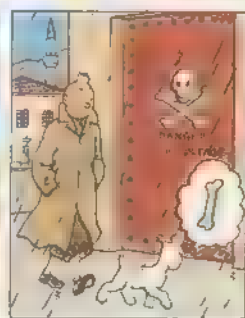
Now at last!

When are  
we going  
to eat?



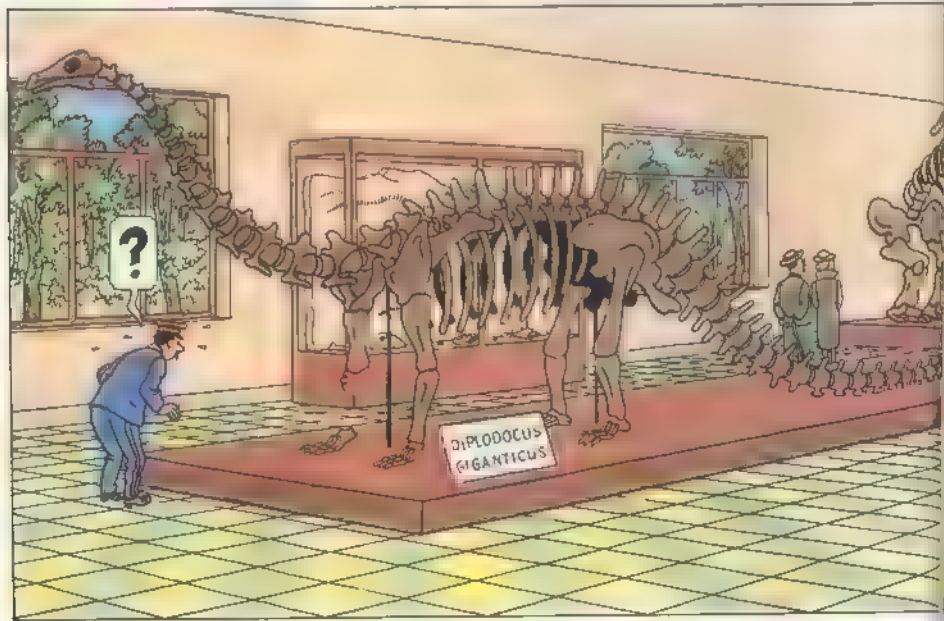
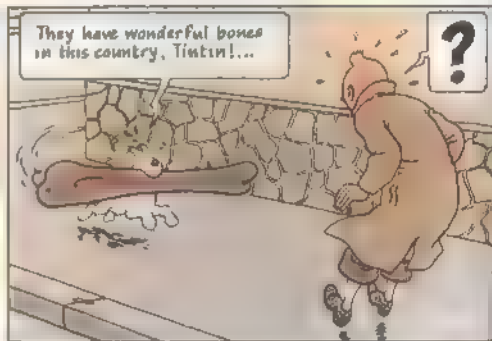
Which way  
to the palace  
this time?

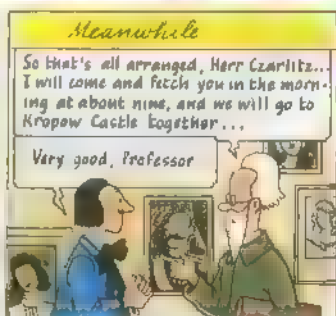
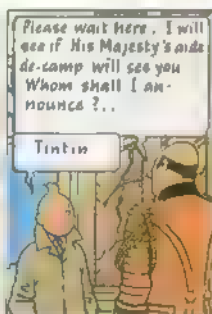
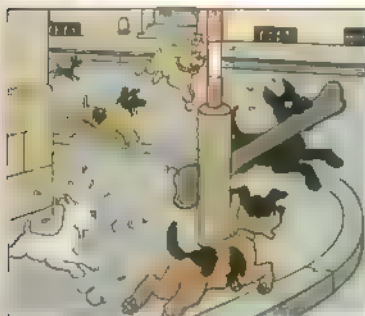
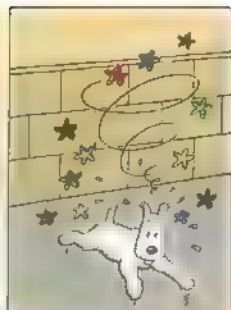
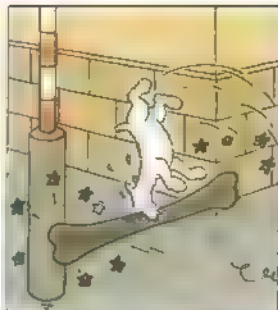
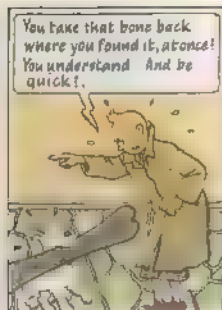
Follow this street  
to Ottokar Square  
then turn left

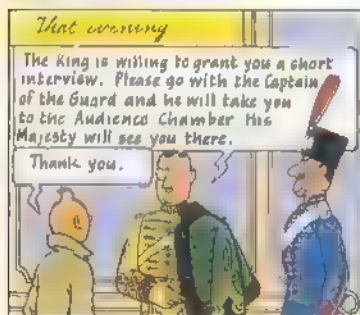
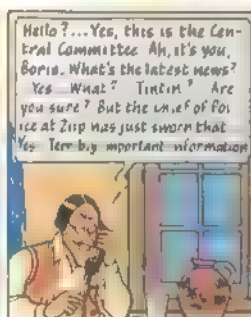
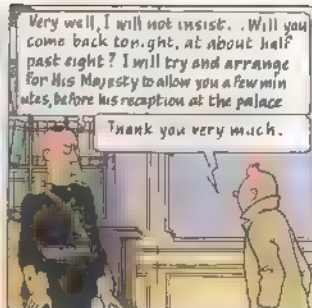


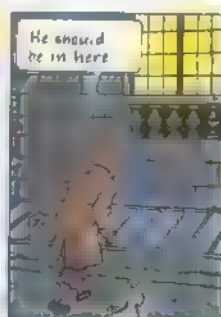
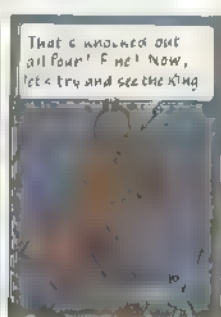
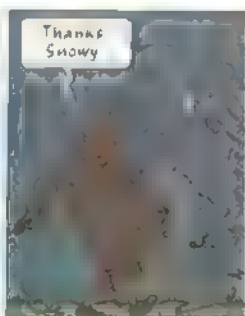
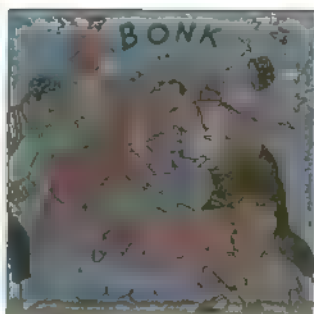
What a downpour! We'll  
shelter until this is  
over...

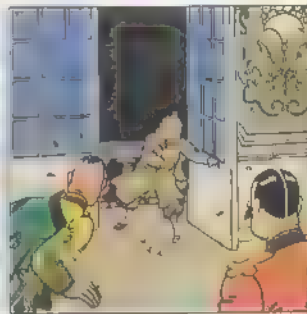
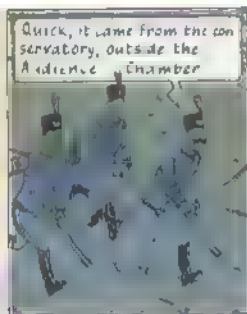
Is this a  
restaurant?











Next morning

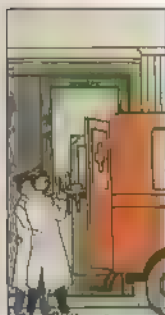
More't me wasted!  
And I'm sure the  
conspirators won't  
be wasting theirs!

CLINK  
CLINK  
CLINK

You are being trans-  
ferred to the State  
Prison to await trial.  
Come with us. The police  
van is outside...



Hello, this is  
St Vladimir's  
Hospital... An  
accident? ...  
Casualties?  
In Molotov Street?  
All right, I'll  
send an ambulance



This one still hasn't come  
round ..

Yes, definitely suf-  
fering from con-  
cussion



We'd better go back  
for the others.

A very useful  
thing, concussion  
... Come on,  
Snowy! Now  
or never ...



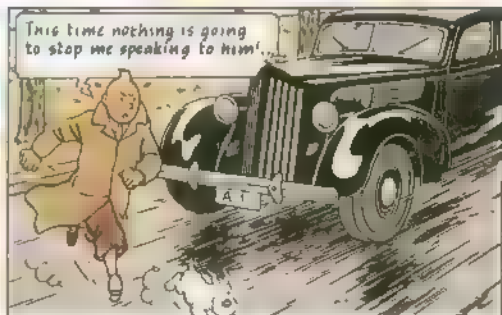
Aha! That's done  
the trick! Now  
back to the palace!

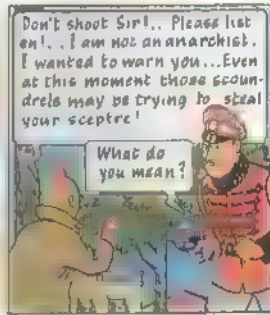
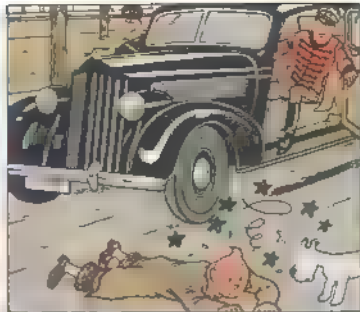


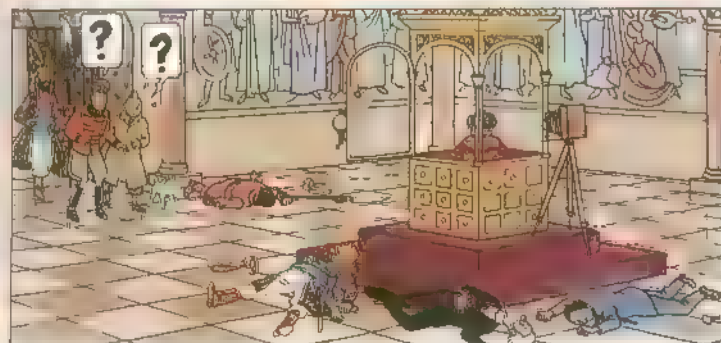
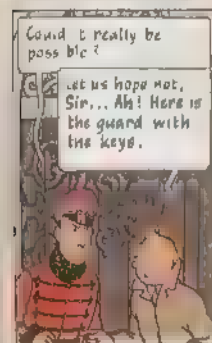
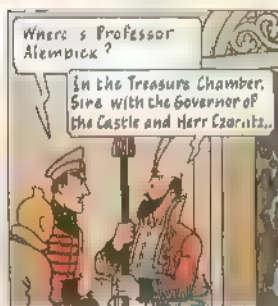
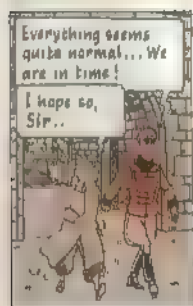
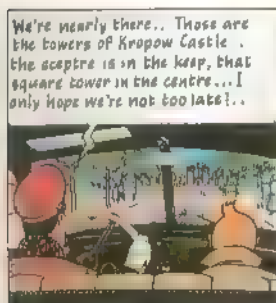
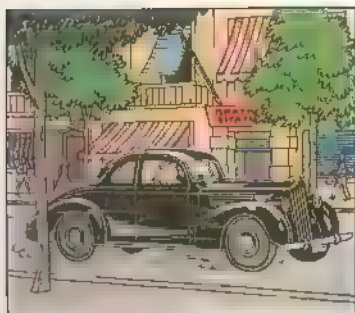
I must see the  
King at all costs



This time nothing is going  
to stop me speaking to him!







# Next morning

So Lord Chamberlain the sceptre has not been recovered yet?

Also no, sire. But I have secured the services of two detectives of international repute, expect them any minute now.



THUD

Ah, I think I know who they are.

What's going on?... Go and see.



?

Er... We are the detectives who... Him... We... we clipped... and

Yes, and we fell down...



Sire, may I present Mr. Thompson and Mr. Thompson, certified detectives

Welcome to Sysdavia, gentlemen

Majesty your sire is very good... Good Majesty... no, I mean

To be precise it's a majesty, Your Pleasure



We thank you for answering our call so promptly, and for placing your experience at the service of the Crown. This is Mr. Tintin, who will give you all the details of this business.

Tintin! Well I never!



This is the position. Someone has stolen the King's sceptre! When His Majesty and I entered the Treasure Chamber we found the Governor of the Castle, two of his men, the photographer Czaritz, and Professor Alembick, whom you know. All of them were in a coma and none of the five came to until this morning. Have they been questioned?



Yes, and their statements agree on all points. Herr Czaritz decided to use a flash bulb. After the flash the room filled with thick smoke. They began to choke, and then passed out...

Good. But, hm... did anyone think of searching these people?...



Of course! Even the guards' valises were taken to pieces, and the camera tripod, to make sure the sceptre wasn't hidden there. They tapped every inch of the room looking for a secret passage, but found nothing! The only door through which the thief could escape was guarded by two sentries, who saw no one leave.



Your Majesty, this is all childishly simple!... With your permission we will go to Kropow Castle and demonstrate how your sceptre was stolen.



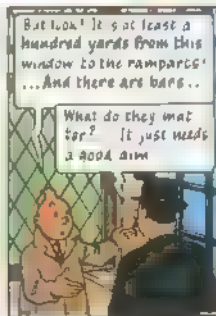
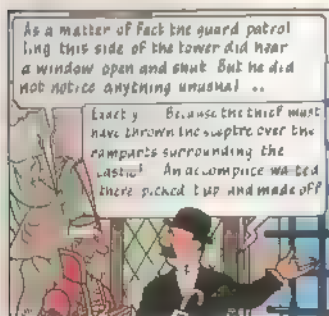
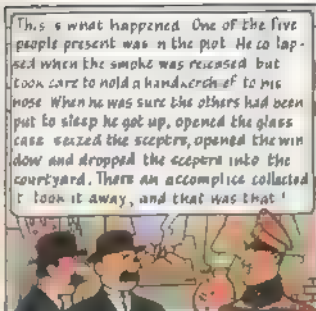
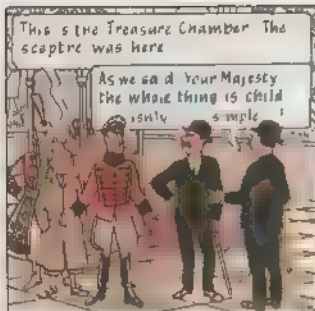
Very well, we'll go:

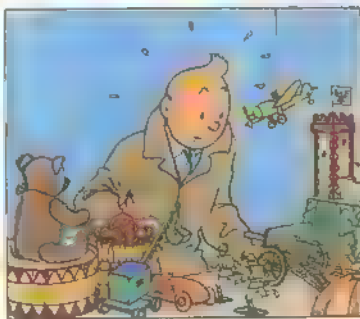
Goodness, they're smarter than I thought!

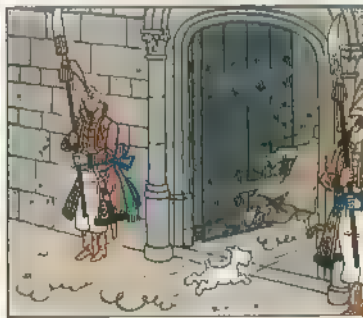
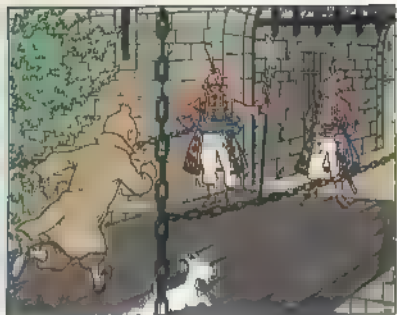
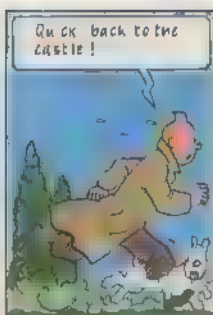


Be careful, the marble is very slippery.









What happened? ... Quick, tell us!



The camera! Look at the camera!



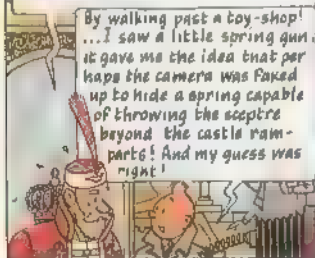
A spring?

Yes, this spring came out. It hit me in the face and knocked me out.

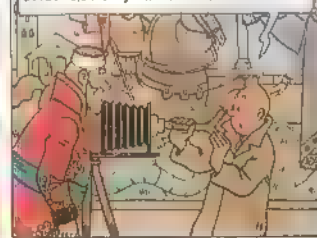


It's amazing! How did you discover that?

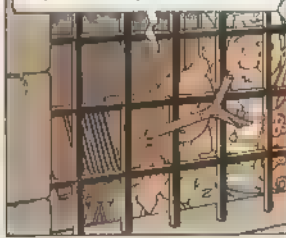
By walking past a toy-shop! ... I saw a little spring gun. It gave me the idea that perhaps the camera was faked up to hide a spring capable of throwing the sceptre beyond the castle ramparts! And my guess was right!



Watch! ... There's the spring back in place... I insert into the tube this stick used by the two detectives...



I place the camera by the window, the forked end of our makeshift sceptre through the bars...

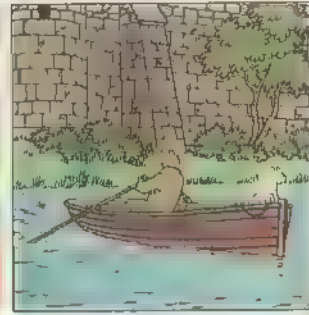


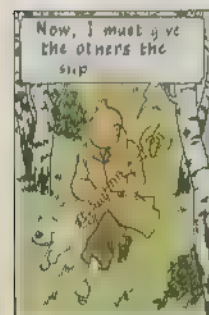
I click the shutter, and Whoops!

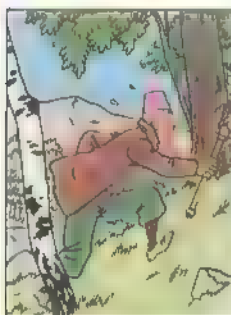
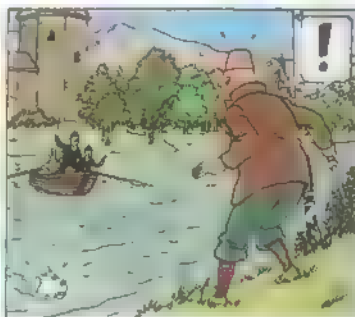
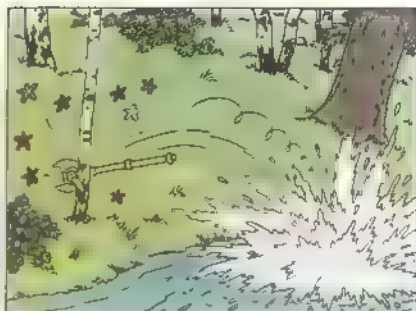


It's far, in the wood beyond the river! ... I'm going to have a look round over there.

You will find a boat down by the bank.







How did you know - was here?

When we went back to the castle they told us you had crossed the river.

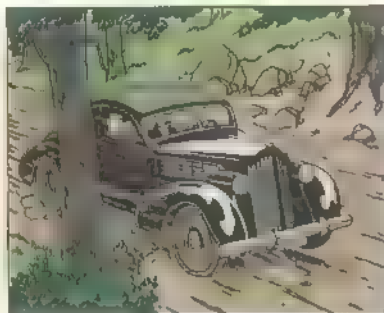


There's the King... They told him, too. He went round by the bridge while we crossed in a boat...



Well what has happened?..

Those gangsters have got away in a car, with the sceptre!... If you will lend us your car, Sir, we three will try and catch them.



They haven't got much of a start on us... We'll soon catch them up



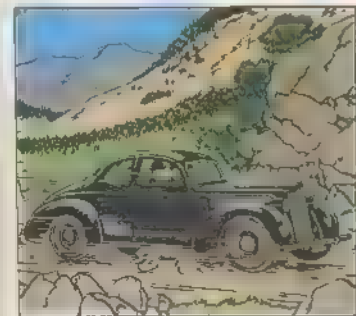
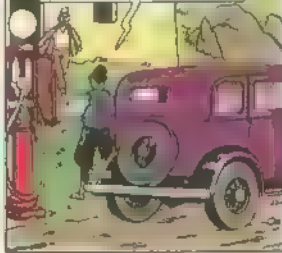
We're almost out of petrol... We'll have to stop at the first pump we come to...



Ah! There's one.



I've gallons! And make it snappy

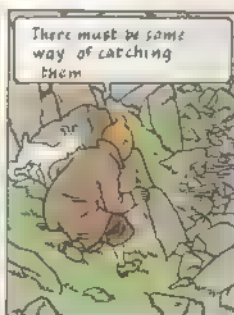
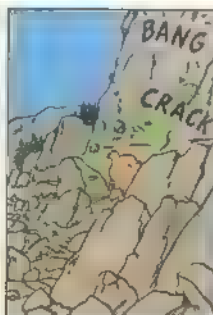
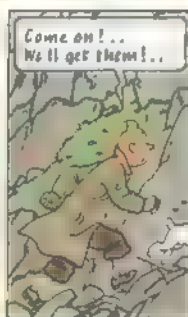
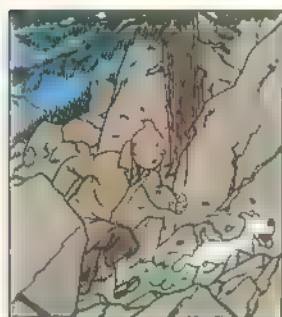
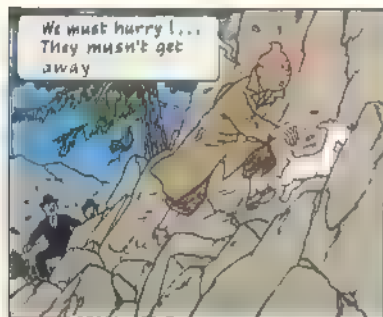
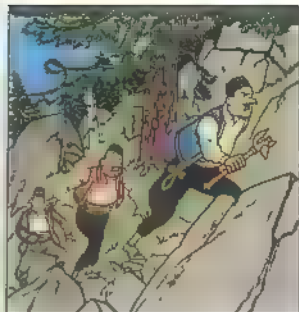


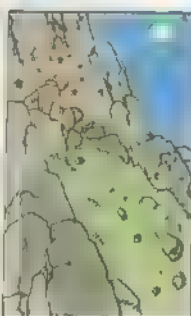
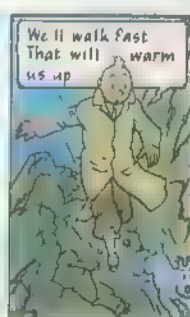
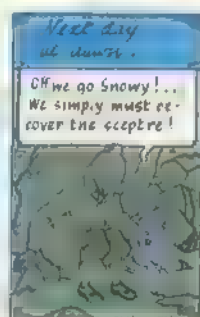
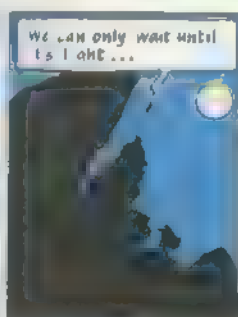
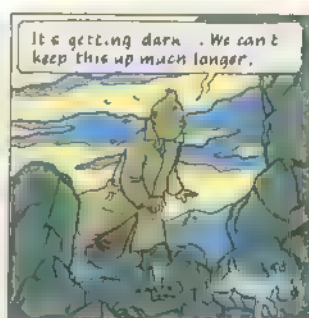
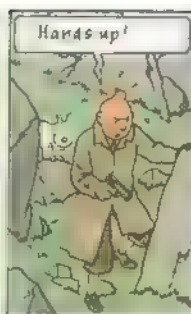
Another twenty miles to the frontier... Good! In half an hour we shall be clear of Syldavia, and the sceptre will be safe!

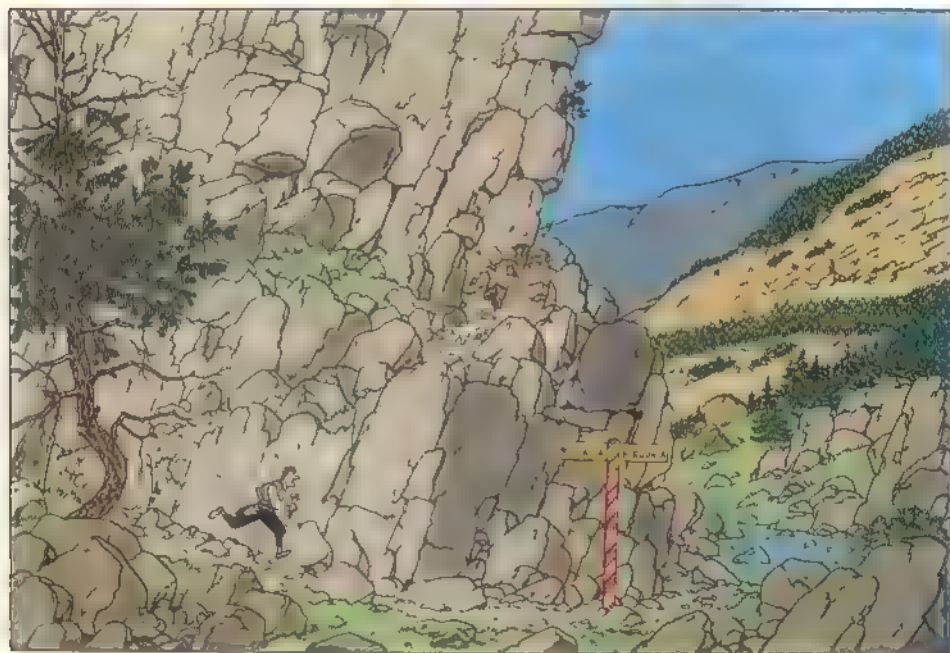
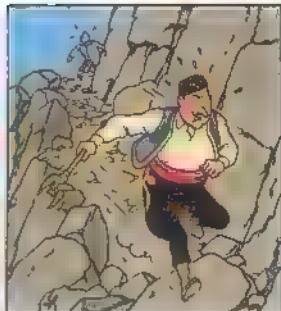
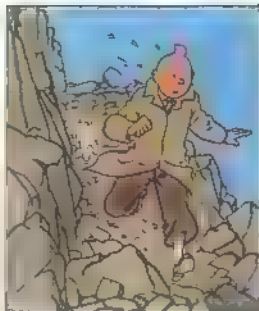


The King's car! They're after us!

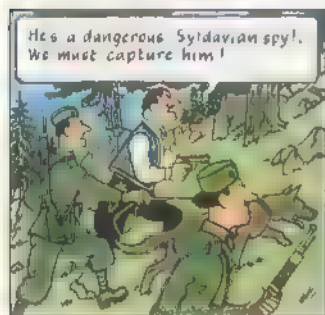
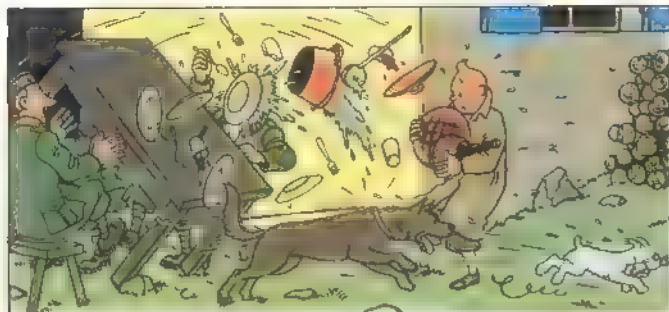












Heat day...

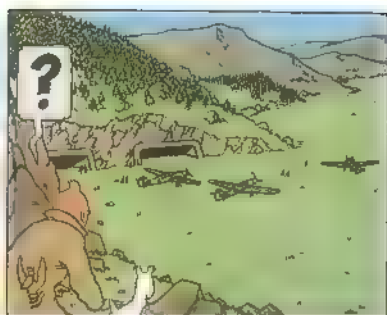
That's two nights  
in the open...  
I'm tired out!...  
If I don't find the  
way soon I'll never  
get back in time!



A Bor-  
duran fight  
er!



He's lowered  
his under-  
carriage. Where's  
he landing?



?

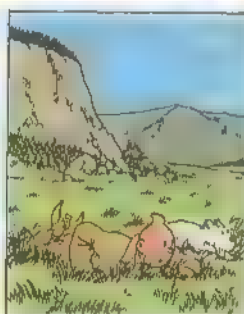


If I could grab  
one of those  
planes I'd be in  
Klow in less than  
an hour...

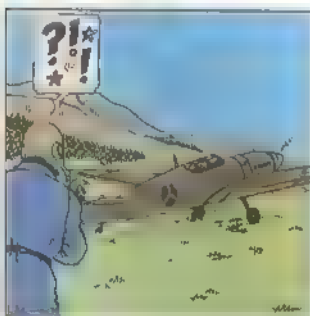


Everything  
O.K.?

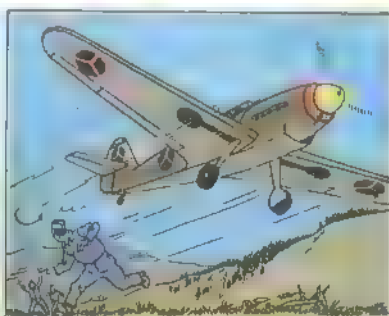
Yes, nothing unusual  
...just reconnaissance  
along the frontier



You know, I've been  
tipped off that Mäs-  
stler will give his  
broadcast at midday  
tomorrow. And an hour  
later our squadron will  
land at Klow.



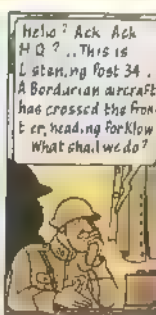
?!  
★  
★  
★



Flat out for  
Klow!...



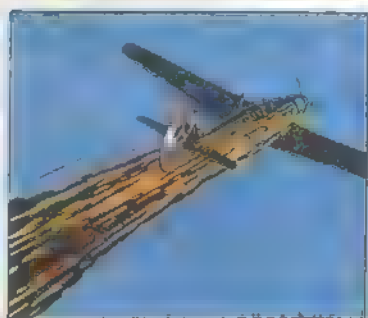
It's getting dark. That's  
annoying. I shan't be there  
before nightfall...



Helio! Ack Ack  
HQ?..This is  
L sten, ing post 34.  
A Bordurian aircraft  
has crossed the fron-  
tier, heading for Klow.  
What shall we do?

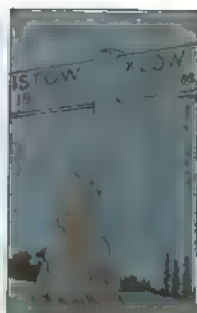
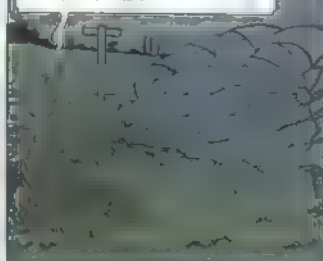


You have your orders,  
Lieutenant.  
Shoot it down'...

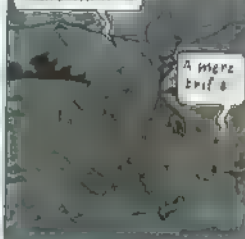




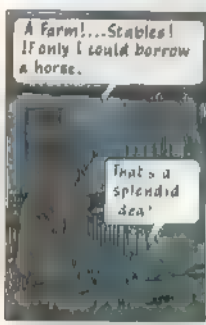
Any signpost! That's a stroke of luck!



Five miles that's five hours walk!

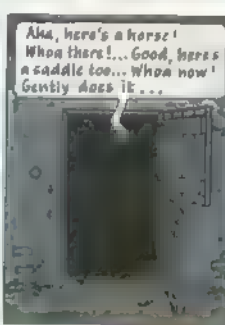


A mere brief!

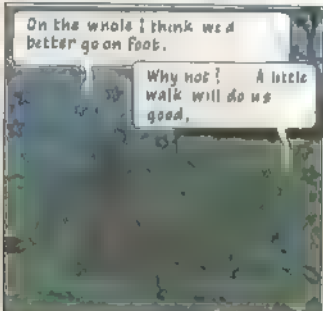
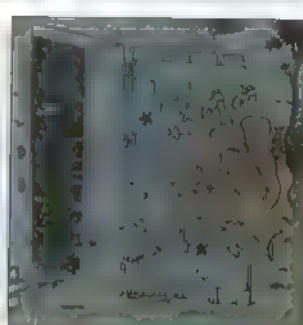


A farm!...Stables! If only I could borrow a horse.

That's a splendid idea!

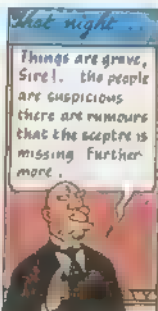


Alas, here's a horse! Whoa there!... Good, here's a saddle too... Whoa now! Gently does it...



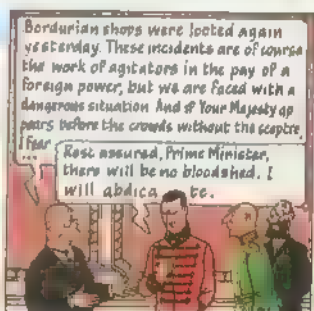
On the whole I think we'd better go on foot.

Why not? A little walk will do us good.



That night

Things are grave, Sir! The people are suspicious there are rumours that the sceptre is missing. Further more.



Bordurian shops were looted again yesterday. These incidents are of course the work of agitators in the pay of a foreign power, but we are faced with a dangerous situation. And if Your Majesty appears before the crowds without the sceptre, I fear...

Rest assured, Prime Minister, there will be no bloodshed. I will abdicate.



No, Sir, you will not abdicate.

TINTIN!

?

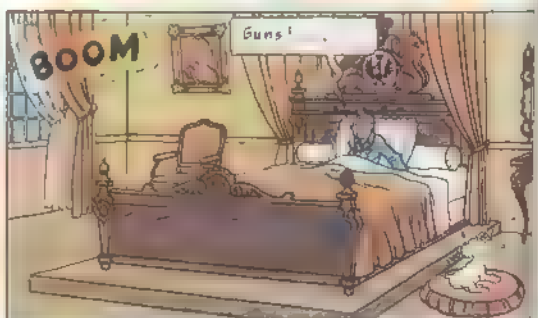
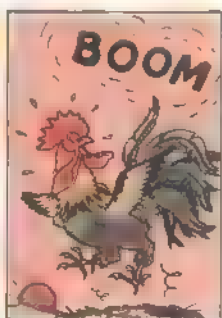
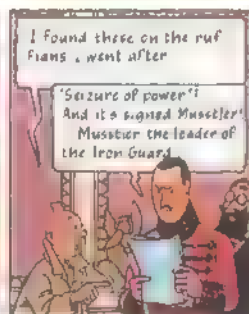


Your Majesty, I have your sceptre with me now!

Saved!

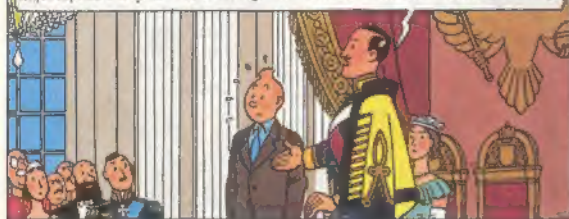


Here it is! I've lost it on the way!





My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. Never in our long history has the Order of the Golden Pelican been conferred upon a foreigner. But today with the full agreement of Our ministers, We bestow this high distinction upon Mr. Tintin, to express Our gratitude for the great services he has rendered to Our country.



Tintin, Knight of the Order of the Golden Pelican...

